GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5694
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2007
DISCONNECTION OF VPTS
Oram Shri Jual

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) are either being disconnected by the Department of Telecommunications or by the customers themselves;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to revive the connections?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) & (b) Village Public Telephones (VPTs) are provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to the willing custodians for provision of telecom services in the rural areas. No instructions have been issued by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for disconnection of VPTs. However, the service providers may disconnect VPTs against which dues are outstanding for payment by the custodian. As on 31st March, 2007, 25,526 VPTs have been disconnected out of a total of 5,52,633 VPTs in the country, due to non-payment.

(c) Subject to availability of willing custodian, the VPTs disconnected due to non payment are shifted to new location/custodian after waiting for payment for three months.